



CONGRESSWOMAN

SHEILA JACKSON LEE

18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, TEXAS



NEWS ALERT



Priorities of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

Dear Friend:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our 108th Congressional Fall newsletter. This newsletter will provide updated information on current legislation, issues and events of interest to constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

I hope you find the information both useful and informative.

I am honored to represent the residents of the 18th District and am working on your behalf.

Sincerely,

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Military Academy Night with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee
Judson Robinson Community Center
2020 Herman Drive, Houston Texas
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. CST, Friday, December 19, 2003
For more information call 713-655-0050

★ **Medicare/Prescription Drugs:** Rep. Jackson Lee voted against the recently-passed Medicare bill because she was concerned that it will do nothing to bring down the cost of prescription drugs for the majority of seniors, and because it could destabilize or cut the Medicare program in the long-run. Economists project that enactment of the bill will cause 132,300 Medicare beneficiaries in Texas to lose their retiree health benefits. 389,400 Medicaid beneficiaries in Texas will pay more for the prescription drugs they need. 209,000 fewer seniors in Texas will qualify for low-income protections than under the Senate bill because of the assets test and lower qualifying income levels. 97,420 Medicare beneficiaries in Texas will pay more for Part B premiums because of income relating. Rep. Jackson Lee did, however, strongly support several health provider provisions that were incorporated into the bill. She had worked with her colleagues in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that the bill that passed did improve reimbursements to hospitals and doctors treating Medicare

patients, including Chiropractors. Those provisions will improve access to quality care for Houston seniors.

★ **NASA Safety:** Congresswoman Jackson Lee is taking a multi-faceted approach in the effort to make safety the number one priority at NASA. She is pressing Congress to create an independent commission to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the safety aboard the International Space Station. She has introduced legislation that passed in the House to prevent NASA employees from being forced into early retirement if losing that employee might compromise the safety of the Space Shuttle or Space Station in the future. She is also authoring legislation that will protect NASA workers from retaliation after they come forward with critical safety concerns about spacecraft or crew.



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is briefed by troops on the war in Iraq.

★ **Transportation:** Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee worked to support her amendment to the House Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2004, also known as H.R. 2989 to remove a block to federal funding for the Houston metro light rail plan. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee also procured \$1 million for the redesign of highway 527 spur concerning Route 59 downtown in the FY 2004 Omnibus Appropriation Bill.

★ **Immigration & Civil Rights:** In June of 2003, Congresswoman Jackson Lee participated in a Task Force conference. The purpose of the conference was to develop a list of Democratic principles on the immigration issues facing the 108th Congress. Congresswoman Jackson Lee stressed that the principles should reflect

(continued on back)